





*Edmondson* (M.S.)

K

A G E N U I N E

# NARRATIVE

O F T H E

## Trial and Condemnation

O F

# MARY EDMONDSON,

For the MURDER of

*Mrs. Sufannah Walker, her AUNT.*

A T T H E

Affizes held at KINGSTON upon THAMES, for the County of SURRY,  
on SATURDAY, *March 31, 1759.*

B E F O R E T H E H O N O U R A B L E

Sir *Thomas DENNISON*, Knt.

W I T H

An Account of her general Behaviour, last Dying Words, and Execution  
on *Monday, April 2, 1759.*

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With ANIMADVERSIONS on the whole Proceedings.

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And her EFFIGY curiously engraved on a Copper-Plate.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for J. PHIPPS, at the BRITANNIA PRINTING-OFFICE,  
*White Friars, Fleet Street.*

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A GENUINE  
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 TRIAL and CONDEMNATION  
 OF  
 MARY EDMONDSON,  
 For the MURDER of  
 Mrs. SUSANNAH WALKER, her AUNT.

**T**HE Prisoner *Mary Edmondson* was born at *Cavartley* near *Leeds*, in the County of *York*. Her Parents gave her such Education as suited their Circumstances; she understood household Affairs, and handled her Needle tolerably well. She was not of a lazy, idle Disposition; but somewhat passionate, resolute, and of a masculine Spirit. Her Parents often complained to their Friends and

Neighbours, that their *Polly* was headstrong, self-willed, uncontrollable and unadvisable. To remedy these growing Evils in their Daughter, they caused her to be instructed in the Principles of the Christian Religion, by putting her to a neighbouring Charity-School; by which Means she had all necessary and proper Opportunities of going to Church, attending the public Devotions, and hearing of Sermons. This was the Care her

Parents took of her Education; and had she walked in those Paths of Virtue prescribed her by Religion and the Fear of God, she had not thus, in the very Flower of her Age, met this unhappy Catastrophe.

WHEN she was arrived at the Age of Seventeen she became remarkably headstrong and hardy, and was observed to be so daring, that it was soon out of the Power of her Parents, though they had taken the aforesaid prudent Precautions, to keep her Spirit under. She could not bear to be rebuked. When this happened, once on a Time, from her Mother, on her being guilty of some great Crime, it threw her into such a Passion, that she, catching up a Pen-knife which unluckily lay next her, violently made at her Mother, and stabbed her in the Belly, which Wound proved so deep and dangerous that it had like to have cost her her Life.

FROM this Time it is not reasonable to suppose, there ever could be any Concord or Agreement between her Parents and she; and therefore now they began to think of sending her out to Service, hoping, that by Means thereof she might be cured of that rash and headstrong Temper she had discovered.

IN the Summer Season following the Attempt the Prisoner made to stab her Mother, Mrs. *Susannah Walker*, then a Widow, came down into *Yorkshire*, and paying a Visit to Mr. *Richard Edmondson* and his Wife, who were her near Relations; and

she understanding that *Mary* their Daughter was intended by them to go to Service, offered to take her along with her to *London*, and there make her her Companion.

WE may here observe, the natural Partiality of Parents to their Offspring, they concealed the Faults of their Daughter, and particularly that most egregious one of all, the Attempt of stabbing of her own Mother. Had this been known to Mrs. *Walker*, it is more than probable, she would never have thought of bringing her to *London*.

BUT though Mr. and Mrs. *Edmondson* did not acquaint Mrs. *Walker* with the Untowardness and wicked Disposition of their Daughter, yet they did not neglect privately to advise her to restrain the inordinate and violent Sallies of her Passion, beg of her not to be easily provoked; and desired her to study to oblige her Aunt, with whom she was shortly to go to live, for that she had it in her Power to give her a Fortune, or leave her something handsome at her Death, if her Conduct and Behaviour merited it.

ALL which Admonition and Advice was received by the Prisoner with Protestations of her Intentions to observe them with great Exactness and Punctuality. To see *London*, and stand a Chance of getting a Fortune led her to make large Promises; and Parents, who are easily persuaded to think, (or at least, to wish) well of their Children, entertain strong Hopes of their speedy Reformation. We are always willing that should come to pass, we wish,

wish, or that is for the Interest and Advantage of us and our Dependents.

UPON these Promises of Amendment for the future, and on the Prisoner's asking her Mother Pardon for the high Offence she had attempted to commit on her Person, the good old Woman, heartily forgave her Daughter, and then prayed to God Almighty, to give her Grace to avoid even the very Beginnings and first Motions of such wicked and cruel Actions.

TOWARDS the Decline of last Summer, Mrs. *Walker*, the Prisoner's Aunt, having finished her Stay in *Yorkshire*, set out on her Return to *London*, leaving Directions with Mr. *Edmondson* and Wife to send up their Daughter by such a Time. But what Accident prevented her Arrival we are not told. Winter coming on, and Mrs. *Walker* wanting her Niece, whom she imagined was a towardly young Woman, and would make her an agreeable Companion, wrote a Letter down to her Parents, desiring them to send her up directly by the *Leeds* Stage Coach, and she would pay the Charges thereof.

ACCORDINGLY, the Prisoner was sent to Town the very first Opportunity after the Receipt of Mrs. *Walker*'s Letter. It was about the Middle of *October* last when she arrived at her Aunt's House in *Rotherhithe*, near the *Shepherd* and *Dog*. They lived together from this Time till near *Christmas* upon pretty good Terms; but being reproved by her Aunt for staying out one Evening very late a

Holy-day-making at that Season; the Prisoner resented it so, that her Behaviour from that Time had a visible Change towards her; the Prisoner after that, received all her Commands with Inattention, and executed her Orders with the greatest Reluctance; and hereupon a continual Quarrel ensued, so that neither Parties could be easy with one or the other.

TIRED at length with the Perverseness of the Prisoner's Behaviour, the Aunt told her, that she found that she did not answer her Expectations in being to her, what she ought to be, an agreeable Companion; and therefore, that she would see, and recommend her, unless she should alter her Conduct and Behaviour, to some good Service as soon as the Spring came on. She did not fail, at this Time, to let the Prisoner know, that she had made her Will greatly in Favour of her; that she had, since she had been with her, given her a Dozen of Shifts; half a Dozen of Aprons; Caps, Night-Caps, and two Suits of Clothes, &c. &c.

FROM whence we may observe, that the Sin, or rather Vice of Ingratitude, had to a monstrous Degree possessed the Soul of this unhappy Wretch, *Mary Edmondson*. It is an Evil, Youth in particular should avoid, for when it once gets Possession of them, it causes them to despise the Council and Advice of their Parents, of their Friends and Acquaintance, and of the Aged and Experienced.

HOWEVER, from this Time, or very soon after, *Mary Edmondson* seems



seems first to have projected the abominable Scheme of murdering her Aunt, as will appear by the Progression of it; and from what follows :

THIS premeditated Contrivance, and wicked Resolution of the Prisoner to murder her Aunt, seems to appear from this Circumstance : About a Fortnight before she committed the Murder the Prisoner at Night went into the Yard, which adjoined to the back Part of the House, and made a Noise by throwing down the Washing-Tubs, and then ran in and told her Aunt, that four Men had broke into the Yard. Whereupon the Neighbourhood was immediately alarmed, but none could be found. This was only introductory to that Scene of Cruelty and Barbarity which she intended should follow.

ACCORDINGLY, 'tis presumed, the Prisoner, having prepared all Things she thought necessary in order to murder her Aunt, on *Friday* the 23d of *February* last, between the Hours of Seven and Eight o'Clock at Night, she went into the Yard, and there, as she had done before, she began to make a terrible and hideous Noise, by throwing down the Washing-Tubs upon the Stone Pavement. This she continued doing for some Time, when Mrs. *Walker*, then in the Parlour missing her Niece, and wondering greatly at the Noise, called her several Times, but she not answering, at length took a Resolution to go and see what was the Meaning of the Noise made by the Fall of the Tubs in the Yard. Whereupon, taking up the

Candle, then standing before her on a Table, she went into the Wash-House. The Niece, perceiving her Aunt coming with a Light in her Hand, hid herself. Upon which, she looked about, and saw the Tubs flung down, but saw no Person whatever. Not being able to account for what she saw, she was about to return again into the Parlour to call her Neighbours to her Assistance ; when the Niece, perceiving her Aunt's Back towards her, rushed forth from her Lurking-Hole, seized her Aunt, and with a Case-knife cut her Throat ; which she did so effectually, that she died in a few Minutes.

WHEN the Prisoner had proceeded thus far, in Order to conceal her Guilt, she dragged the dead Body of her Aunt out of the Wash-House into the Kitchen, took her Watch and some Silver Spoons, and hid them under the Water-Tub. After this, she took off her Apron, (which was wreaking wet with the Blood of her Aunt) and taking the bloody Knife, and Handkerchief, she rolled them all up together, and threw them into the Copper.

THIS done, the farther to hide her Guilt, she immediately cut her own Wrists across; and then being in a very bloody Condition, she opened the Street-Door, and alarmed the Neighbours by crying out, Murder, Thieves! Help for God's Sake ; and the like.

SEVERAL Persons came soon to her Assistance, who enquiring the Cause of her Exclamation, and at the same Time, seeing her herself all bloody ; was thus answered, by her ; That four Men



Men or Ruffians had broken into the Back Part of the House, had murdered her Aunt, robbed her of her Watch and several Silver Spoons; and that she, endeavouring to save her Aunt from their Cruelty, had both her Wrists cut across by them.

THE Neighbours, upon hearing this Story, and not then having any Suspicion, that the Relator had been the Assassin of the Deceased, went backwards immediately in Search of the four Men. They saw the Wash-house in great Confusion; but they could not discover the least Traces of the four pretended Murderers, nor any Foot-steps of the Story she had told them. At length, one more curious than the rest, looking into the Copper, discovered a Woman's Apron fresh wet with human Blood. Making farther Search under the Water-Tub, up in a Corner, among some Dirt, was found the Watch and Silver Spoons; all which appeared to have been put there but very lately.

WHEN the Neighbours had finished their Search after the four pretended Murderers, they then began to reflect on the great Improbability, that four Thieves and Murderers should break into Mrs. Walker's House, murder and rob her, and after that, hide the Things they had stole, and then make off. One of the Neighbours knew the bloody Apron to be the Prisoner's, had seen her often wear it, and thereupon charged her with being concerned in the Murder. But she stily denied it; and urged, that though the Apron

was her's, yet that it became so bloody from the Cuts the Murderers had given her across her Wrists; and that it being then foul, and she being used to put foul Clothes into the Copper, she had taken it off, thrown it in there, and had thereupon put on a clean one.

THE Neighbours not satisfied with these Excuses, and having a strong Suspicion, that she was concerned in the Murder of her Aunt, secured her, that she might be examined before the *Coroner* and his Inquest, when they should sit upon the Body of the deceased.

THE Churchwardens and Officers of the Parish, wherein this Murder happened, sent an Account of it to the *Coroner* of the County of *Surry*, who the next Morning early summoned Eight Housholders out of the Parish of *St. Mary, Rotherhithe*, Eight Housholders out of the Parish of *St. John, Horslydown*, and eight Housholders out of the Parish of *St. Giles, Camberwell*, to be a Jury to enquire, in Behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, into the Cause of the Death of Mrs. *Susannab Walker*, Widow, late the Wife of Mr. *Leonard Walker*, a Timber Merchant. Accordingly, the *Coroner* and his Jury sat on the Body of the Deceased, the next Day, about Four o'Clock, in the Afternoon, at the *Noah's Ark*, a Public House in the Neighbourhood, and within a few Doors of Mrs. *Walker's* House.

THE *Coroner* having sworn his Jury to make true Inquiry into the Cause of Mrs. *Walker's* Death, they first

proceeded to take a particular View of the Body of the Deceased ; and here they found, that she was murdered by some Person or Persons with a Knife, by cutting of her Throat. They likewise found, that she had not received any other Wound in any other Part of her Body.

THE Jurors, satisfied that the Deceased met her Death from the above Cause and Violence, proceed to examine such Persons, Neighbours, who first entered the House, and saw the Deceased soon after her unhappy Catastrophe.

SEVERAL Persons were examined, who all deposed to the Effect following : That on last Night between the Hours of Eight and Nine o'Clock, they being then in the Neighbourhood, were alarmed with an Outcry of Thieves, Murder, &c, that going towards the Deceased's House, they met the Prisoner in a very bloody Condition ; which they expressing their great Surprise at, she told them, that four Thieves had broke into the House, murdered her Aunt, and had liked to have killed her too ; that thereupon, they went immediately into the House, and saw the Deceased lying in the Kitchen wallowing in her Gore ; that at this Time, they had not the least Suspicion, that the Prisoner was guilty of the Murder. They then went backwards into the Wash-house to see in what Manner the Thieves had broke in ; but that after they had looked about with the utmost Diligence they could not discover any Place where any Person had broke in ; they then began to suspect that the

Deceased did not meet her Death in the Manner related by her Niece ; that thereupon, they began to search about to see, whether the Murderers had concealed themselves ; that so doing, they looked into the Copper, that being a Place that would hold a Man ; that looking in there they at once discovered a Woman's Apron, with a Case-knife and Handkerchief rolled up ; that having found these Things, they taxed the Prisoner with being concerned in the Murder of her Aunt ; they taxed her so close with it, that she swooned away, that soon after she came to herself, and that she denied her being guilty ; that upon making a further Search they found under a great Water-tub which stood up in the Cornor of the Wash-house, Mrs. *Walker's* Watch, and several Silver Spoons : that they charged the Prisoner with putting the said Things there ; but that also she stiffly denied ; that they came to a Conclusion among themselves, that the Prisoner had murdered her Aunt ; and that she had done it in the Wash-house, and that the Body was afterwards dragged from thence into the Kitchen. And that for these Reasons they had caused the Prisoner to be secured, in Order for her Examination before the *Coroner* and his Inquest.

AFTER the Neighbours had finished their Depositions, and given to the *Coroner* and his Jury, their Reasons for suspecting the Prisoner to be concerned in the Murder of her Aunt, the *Coroner* ordered the Prisoner to be brought in ; when he swore her to speak the Truth in answer to all those

Questions he should ask her relative to the Death of Mrs. *Susannah Walker*, her Aunt.

*Cor.* Do you know the Deceased, Mrs. *Susannah Walker*?

*Edm.* Yes, Sir.

*Cor.* Is that her Body, which lies there, now dead?

*Edm.* It is, Sir.

*Cor.* How long have you lived with the Deceased?

*Edm.* I came out of *Yorkshire*, some Time in *October* last, and have lived with her ever since.

*Cor.* Are you related to the Deceased?

*Edm.* She is my Aunt by the Marriage of my Mother's Brother.

*Cor.* Was you in your Aunt's House last Night, from Dark till you made an Outcry in the Neighbourhood on the Murder of your Aunt?

*Edm.* I was not out all Day.

*Cor.* Pray, than observe, you are here upon Oath, and you are desired to give the Gentlemen present a true and faithful Account of what you know relating to the Murder of your Aunt?

*Edm.* As I was sitting by the Fire Side in the Kitchen with my Aunt, four Men suddenly rushed in, and laying violent Hands on her, took from her her Watch then hanging on the Chimney-Piece; my Aunt made great Resistance, and cried out Thieves, Murder, &c. Whereupon one of the Ruffians took up a Case-knife which then laid on the Table before us, and swore he would cut her Throat, and which he immediately

did, and then she fell upon the Flour; where she has lain ever since.--Whilst they were doing this, I opposed them to the utmost of my Power;—which caused them to threaten my Life; I had hold of my Aunt, and endeavoured to hinder them from murdering her;—I would have pulled her from them;—whereupon, they to make me let go my Hold cut both my Hands cross the Wrists, as you now see.

*Cor.* Should you know the four Men if you were to see them again?

*Edm.* Yes I should, for they are the same four Men, who yesterday Fortnight at Night, broke into the Wash-house, and on my crying out Thieves, Murder, &c. they all jumped out again, and so made their Escape.

*Cor.* How were they dressed?

*Edm.* Two were dressed as Water-men, and two as Sailors.

*Cor.* Is this Apron your's?

*Edm.* Yes, it is mine.

*Cor.* Was this the Apron you had on when the Thieves broke in, and murdered your Aunt?

*Edm.* It is the Apron, that I usually wore when I was doing my Household Business.

*Cor.* Give an Account, how it came to be put into the Copper?

*Edm.* In defending my Aunt, the Blood which ran in Streams from her Throat, all blooded my Apron, in such a Manner, that I could not bear it; so I pulled it off, and threw it into the Copper, and then I put on a clean one.



*Cor.* Is this Watch your Aunt's?

*Edm.* Yes.

*Cor.* And so I suppose, these Silver Spoons are her's?

*Edm.* Yes.

*Cor.* Do you know any Thing of these Things being put under the Water-tub?

*Edm.* I know nothing about them, besides this, that the Thieves took them from my Aunt.

*Cor.* You may withdraw.

THEN the Jury weighing the several Circumstances of this Affair came to the following Conclusion, "That *Mary Edmondson* was guilty of murdering Mrs. *Susannah Walker*, Widow, by cutting of her Throat with a Case-knife, in a most barbarous, cruel and inhuman Manner."

UPON this Verdict, the *Coroner, Harvey Acton, Esq;* made out his Warrant for her Commitment to the Custody of the Keeper of the County Gaol; and that Night the Constable brought her to the *New Gaol*, in the Borough of *Southwark*. Here she arrived soon after Nine, and tarried near an Hour in the Lodge, and drank a Bottle of Wine with the Constable and some other Gentlemen, without having the least Concern or Terror on her Spirits. When she was carried backwards to be locked up amongst the Women Prisoners, the Sight of seeing so many of her Sex, (and two of them for Murder) in Confinement, did not shock her in the least.

ON the Sunday Morning when they unlocked the Prisoners, in the Wo-

men's Ward, she seemed somewhat affected, and it was thought that her Conscience prick'd her so sensibly, she was disposed to make a Confession of the whole bloody Trans-action; but when she was questioned about it, she was still in the same Story. Two Reverend Clergymen attended her, and pressed her, with all the Energy in their Power, to be ingenious, and confess her Guilt; for notwithstanding there was no Person in the House but herself when this Murder was committed, yet the Circumstances against her were so strong, that it would be impossible she should be acquitted on her Trial; they laid before her the horrible Crime of Murder and Blood-guiltiness; and told her tho' her Crime was so foul, and of so deep a Dye, yet, on her Confession, and a sincere Repentance, she might hope for Mercy from God Almighty: but while she continued stubborn and hard-hearted, all her Devotion was to no Purpose, for her Conscience being so fear'd, and her Heart so hardened, her Endeavours to make her Peace with God, whom she had so greatly offended, would be ineffectual.

THESE Remonstrances were to no Manner of Purpose; she still continued in the same Story that she begun with.

ON Sunday the 5th of March, she could not be prevailed on to take the least Nourishment, but seemed in a kind of Despondency, more easy to be conceived than expressed. That Day she sent a Message for her Sister, and



and Brother-in-Law, and desired that they would come the next Day, which they did accordingly. At the first Interview of the two Sisters, there was such a melancholy Scene presented itself as cannot be well described. Her Sister fell on her Knees to her, and said, "O dear *Molly*, for God's Sake, confess the Murder; you have certainly spilled my dear Aunt's Blood; and you know she was better to us than it was in the Power of our Parents to be.—How can you deny it! God Almighty will never have Mercy on you, if you will not confess, and repent of this wicked Deed!" The unhappy Sister, was all this Time in a Flood of Tears, as was her Husband; who likewise, with all the Tenderness and Compassion of an affectionate Relation begg'd her to make a Confession, and ease her troubled Conscience. But she replied, "You need not grieve for me, for I am as innocent, Sister, as the Babe that is in your Womb; it was four Men that broke in backwards, and murdered my Aunt; I never had the least Intention of Harm to her in my Life, and I wonder what can make you think that I did it." She said all these Words with a seeming Unconcern; and tho' many Tears were shed by her Sister and Brother and all the Bystanders; yet it was observed that not one Tear fell from her Eyes.

ON *Thursday*, the 1st of *March*, she was told by one of the Neighbours, that her Aunt was to be buried that Evening at *Christ-Church* in

*Surry*, near the Remains of her Uncle; she said her Aunt had desired that in her Will; but she thought it signified very little when a Person was dead where they are buried.

ON *Friday* the 2d of *March*, in the Evening, she was attended by two worthy Divines of the Church of *England*, who prayed with her upwards of an Hour; she behaved with great Decency, and seeming Composure of Mind, during the Time of Prayers. This Evening she was mightily pressed to make a Confession, and clear her Conscience; her Answer was, "My Father will be in Town in a Day or two, and what I have to say, I will speak to him, and him only."

THE next Day her Father came to Town from *Yorkshire*, and went to the *New Gaol* to visit his unfortunate Daughter; the poor old Man was so struck with Grief and Sorrow, that he could hardly prevail with himself to enter her Apartment; but at length, being desirous of having the Truth, he ventured to go in; and, in the most tender Manner imaginable, conjured her to tell him the Truth of the whole Matter, for he should never rest unless she disclosed what she knew concerning the Murder of her Aunt. She said in the most solemn Manner, "Dear Father, I am not guilty, in any Degree, of this Murder, as I hope for Salvation from God Almighty; it was four Men that broke into the House backwards, and dragged my Aunt out of the Wash-house, and cut her Throat; the Bruises on these poor Fingers I

" got by shutting the Street Door  
 " after me when I ran out to call the  
 " Neighbours; as for the Cut on my  
 " Wrist, that was done by one of  
 " the Men in the Struggle, I would  
 " scorn to tell you a Lye, and was I  
 " to die this Night for it, I could  
 " say no more."

HER Father visited her the Day following, with two Clergymen, who pray'd with her for some Time, and she made the same Declaration to them that she had to her Father. She was afterwards daily visited by her Father, so long as his Business would permit him to tarry in *London*; and she, by many Asseverations, denying the Murder, the old Man at last was inclinable to think her innocent; tho' he said it was very extraordinary that his Daughter should deny the Murder, when so many concurring Circumstances appeared against her, and not one in her Favour.

WHEN the Father took his last Farewel, she appeared in some Agony on his Departure, but in a very short Time recovered herself. She always lived sparingly, and could not be prevail'd on to drink any Thing with the People who came out of Curiosity to see her.

THE tenth Day of her Confinement she had an Iron put on her left Leg, to try if that would make any Impression upon her; but it had no manner of Effect, she appearing and behaving just the same as she had done from the Beginning; and said she did not mind her Fetters, as she was an innocent Woman, and hoped it would

be found out in a very short Time who were the Persons that were the Cause of the Misfortunes and Sorrows that she suffered.

ABOUT a Fortnight after her Commitment she was seized with a slight Indisposition, which continued a few Days: During her Illness a Gentleman belonging to the Gaol carried up to her a Piece of Cake and a Glass of Wine; but she refused to taste any Thing; and the Gentleman offering to salute her, she push'd him from her, saying " You shall not kiss me now; you shall stay 'till I come under the Gallows."

WHEN a Fetter was put upon her Leg, she pretended to faint away; but soon recovered herself; A Relation of her's standing by, told her if she had well considered of what she was about to do, and not listen'd to the Seducements and Instigations of the Devil, she would not been under such Affliction. " Well, Sir, (said she) let me hear no Reflection from you; I think I am now sufficiently punished; and, God knows my Heart, I do not deserve it."

SOME Time before the Assizes she order'd a Suit of Mourning to be made, in which she intended to take her Trial; but did not make the least Preparation for it, well knowing she could say but little in her Defence that would avail her.

ON Wednesday the twenty-ninth of *March*, she was carried in a common Waggon, with the other Prisoners, from the *New Gaol* to *Kingston* upon *Thames*; and there put into the *Stockhouse*

*Stockhouse Prison* in that Town. Where she was kept till the *Saturday* following; when about Eight o'Clock that Day in the Morning she was brought to the Bar, when the following Freeholders of the County of *Surry* were sworn, viz.

<i>Joseph Riley,</i>	<i>William Griffin,</i>
<i>William Brown,</i>	<i>Henry Roke,</i>
<i>William Hunt,</i>	<i>Thomas Allen,</i>
<i>Daniel Bullen,</i>	<i>James Cox,</i>
<i>Thomas Heath,</i>	<i>John Honour,</i>
<i>Joseph King,</i>	<i>George Salter.</i>

*MARY EDMONDSON*, Spinster, lat of the Parish of *St. Mary Rotherhitb*, in the County of *Surry*, was indicted, for that she, not having the Fear of God before her Eyes, but being moved and seduced by the Instigation of the Devil, in the Parish aforesaid, and County aforesaid, on the 23d Day of *February* last, on one *Susannab Walker*, Widow, in the Dwelling-house of the said *Susannab*, then and there being, in the Peace of God, and our Sovereign Lord the King, wilfully, and of her Malice afore-thought, then and there did make an Assault, and with a certain Knife, of the Value of one Penny, which she then had and held in her Right Hand, on the Throat of the said *Susannab*, near the Jaw-bone, did give one mortal Wound, of the Breadth of three Inches, and the Depth of five Inches, of which Wound she the said *Susannab* instantly died.

SHE was a second Time indicted on the Coroner's Inquest for feloniously

slaying the said *Susannab Walker*, Widow, on the 23d Day of *February* last.

SHE was a third Time indicted for stealing a Silver Watch, and other Things, in the Dwelling-house of the said *Susannab Walker*. To all which Indictments she pleaded *Not Guilty*.

THE Counsel for the Crown opened the Nature of the Indictment to the Court and Jury, by setting forth, that they had no positive Proof of the Murder, but that they could produce so many concurring Circumstances as would put it beyond Doubt, that the Prisoner at the Bar committed this Murder. As to those Circumstances, they said, they would not aggravate; but leave the whole Decision to the Gentlemen of the Jury, after they had heard the several Witnesses that were to be examined on the Part of the Prosecution. The Counsel then proceeded to call their Witnesses.

*Ann Toucher*. I was intimate with the Deceased, and used to be with her frequently; I lived but just over the Way; some Time before this Murder she said that she had lost Coals out of her Coal-Hole, and she could not account for it, for her Niece, the Prisoner at the Bar, had told her, that she believed some Body came in backwards, and stole them.

Q. Was you at Mrs. *Walker*'s House on *Friday* the 23d of *February* last.

*Toucher*. I was; I went to pay Mrs. *Walker* a Visit; it was about Half an Hour after Seven o'Clock; I knock'd at the Door, and the Prisoner let me in;



in ; the Deceased was sitting by the Fire-side in a Chair, and the Prisoner was scowering a Candlestick ; there was no one else in the House at that Time but the Deceased and the Prisoner.—The Prisoner was in her common Dress, and had on a check Apron. One *Rebecca Sparrow* used to come about Nine o'Clock every Night to lie with the Deceased, which she had done ever since she lost her Husband, but she was not there at that Time.—About Eight o'Clock at Night we were alarmed with the Cry of Murder, and the Prisoner said, that some Men had broke in backwards, and murdered her Aunt.—After Mr. *Jefferys* and the other Executors had examined all Matters, they had some Reason to believe that the Prisoner knew something of the Affair more than she would discover, and that Night the Murder was done, the Prisoner lay at my House with my Maid and another Woman.—There was Care taken of her that she should not Escape. The *Coroner* was sent for the next Day ;—I saw the Deceased, the same Night that she was murdered ; she was bloody, and was sat in a Chair ; her Throat was cut ;—The Prisoner was under a great Disorder, in my Opinion, when she came to my House.—After the Prisoner was secured, the Necessary was searched, and some Coals found, which were the Coals that was missing, that the Deceased complained of having lost.

Q. *from the Prisoner's Counsel.* Was there no Back Yard where People might break in to commit the Murder.

*Toucher.* There was a Back Yard,

but I think they could not break in ; there was no Sign of it.

*Elizabeth Lawson.* I live near Mrs. *Walker*, opposite to her.

Q. Did you know any Thing about the Alarm of Coals being stolen ?

*Lawson.* I have frequently heard of that ; I was at the Deceased's House about a Quarter after Seven, and then the Prisoner was scowering Brasses.

Q. What Dress was the Prisoner then in ?

*Lawson.* I can say nothing to that, for I took no Notice of her Dress.

Q. Do you know what Apron she had on ?

*Lawson.* I took no Notice of that.

*Ruth Tagg.* I was going down *Rotherbith* with Oysters, and about Eight o'Clock at Night, on the 23d of *February*, I saw the Prisoner come out of Mrs. *Walker's* Door ; she cry'd out Murder ! Murder ! Murder ! Murder !—I heard the Left-Hand-Side of the Door open, and seeing a Woman come to the Step of the Door it alarmed me, and the Neighbourhood.—Mrs. *Odell* asked what was the Matter ; and the Prisoner run directly to Mrs. *Odell's* Door, and cry'd out Murder, and all the Way she went she cry'd out Murder, 'till I had lost Sight of her.

*Sarah Odell.* I live right opposite Mrs. *Walker*.—On the 23d of *February*, about Eight o'Clock at Night, the Prisoner came running to my House, crying out Murder ! they have killed my Aunt. She said but a very short Time at my House, and went out again.

*Joseph Holloway.* I remember the



Alarm of Murder being cry'd out on the 23<sup>d</sup> of *February*, about Eight o'Clock in the Evening—The Prisoner came into the *Noah's Ark* Ale-house, which is about fifty Yards from the Dwelling-House of Mrs. *Walker*, the Deceased.—I went directly into the House, and saw the Deceased with her Throat cut, lying on the Ground, and her Neck towards the Fire.—A little Table stood just before the Deceased, and it appear'd as if the Deceased had been murdered as she sat in her Chair, and had fallen out of it on the Ground. I thought it very odd that this Woman should be murder'd in this Manner, and ask'd the Neighbours what sort of a Girl this was;—the Prisoner was then at Mrs. *Odell's* House. She was examined, and the Account she gave, was, that four Men broke in backwards, and one of them brought her Aunt into the Ground Room next the Street, and set her in a Chair, and cut her Throat; she said that the tall Man in a Waistcoat, and Jockey's Cap bid her hold her Tongue, or else they would kill her. I observed a Mark on her Left-Hand, as if it was cut with a Knife, and her Fingers on the Left-Hand were bruised, which she said was occasioned by being jammed between the Door and the Door-Post. She then pretended to fall into a Fit, which I believe she sham'd. An Officer standing by at that Time, I thought it proper that she should be taken into Custody; for I was of Opinion she herself was the Murderer of her Aunt. That Night she lay at

Mrs. *Toucher's*, having two Women with her.—The next Day she said much the same as she had done before, that four Fellows had broke in at the Back Door, and done the Murder.

Q. In what Situation was the Deceased when you first found her?

*Holloway*. She lay on her Right Side, as if just fell out of the Chair.

Q. Did not you observe some Blood on the Prisoner's Apron?

*Holloway*. There was Blood on her Apron, which was a check Apron, and Blood on the Prisoner's Cap, on the Left Side of it.

*John Hillyer*. I knew the deceased *Susannah Walker*, and was at her House about a Quarter after Eight at Night on the 23<sup>d</sup> of *February* last: The Prisoner said her dear Aunt was murdered in the Ground Floor next the Street. I went into Mrs. *Walker's* House, and saw the Deceased lying with her Throat cut; she lay on her Right Side, and her Forehead appeared to be very much bruised; and the Chair that the Deceased sat in was broke by her struggling. I observed a Cut in her under Lip, and her Cap lay by her soaked in Blood; I did not observe any other Marks. The same Evening that this happened the Prisoner was blooded at Mrs. *Campora's*, just opposite to the Deceased's House. I asked her how this happen'd; she said four Men broke in at the Back Door, and a tall Man in a Jockey's Cap forced her Aunt into a Chair, then threw her on the Ground, and killed her, and they told the Prisoner,

if she would hold her Tongue they would not murder her; and then three of the Men had a Candle, and stood at the Foot of the Chamber Door, as if they intended to go up Stairs, and the tall Fellow took the Watch that hung over the Mantle-Piece, and while he was doing this, that she the Prisoner took an Opportunity to slip back the Lock of the Street Door, which was a Spring-Lock, and got into the Street, and in doing this, she said her Fingers were jamm'd between the Door and the Door-Post, as she went to shut the Door. I observed that the Fingers on the Prisoner's Left Hand were bruised, and that her Cap was bloody on the Left Side; the next Day we all went with the *Coroner* to search the House of the Deceased. After searching several Places, we went into the Wash-House, and I found this Knife, which was all bloody, quite up to the Handle, in the Ash-Hole under the Copper.

[*Then the Knife was produced in Court, which was a large Case-Knife, and was all covered with Blood.*]

*Thomas Savage.* I am the Constable that took the Prisoner into Custody, and the Knife now produced is the same that *Mr. Hillyer* gave to me; it is one of the Knives which belonged to the Deceased, for in the Drawer just under the Window, where the Deceased was, I found several more of the same Sort and Make.

*John Warren.* On the 23d of *February*, about Eight o'Clock in the Evening, hearing a Noise, as I sat with my Family, I ran to Mrs. *Wal-*

*ker's House*, and found she was murdered; she was then sat in a Chair; Mrs. *Toucher* was there at that Time, and said to me, *If you do not go home with me, I shall die.* Mr. *Acton*, the Coroner was sent for. I pulled out this bloody Apron from the Copper in the Wash-house, in the Place where the Fire burns, and said to the Coroner, Mr. *Acton*, here is the bloody Apron. I am sure that it is the same Apron that I found there, because I made this Notch in it that I might be positive when I came before the Court.

*Edward Jefferys.* Mrs. *Thomas* asked the Prisoner, after the bloody Apron was found, where the Apron was that she went out in, and she said she had left it at the House where she was blooded. There is a Mark on the Apron where she fell down in the Dirt, and daubed it.

[*Then the bloody Apron was produced in Court; and the Apron that the Prisoner went out in to alarm the Neighbourhood of the Murder; and that the Apron was a Check one, but a different Kind of Check to what the bloody Apron was, and had some Kennel Dirt on it, which was caused by the Prisoner's falling down in the Street.*]

Mr. *Jefferys.* She denied the bloody Apron, and said it did not belong to her, and that she knew nothing of the Knife, but when it was compared with those in the Deceased's Drawers, it tallied exactly with them. Being one of the Executors to the Deceased, I was sent for from the *Horns at Cuckold's Point*, where I had appointed to Sup that Evening with some Friends,

and

and when I came to the Deceased's House, I found she was murdered, as has already been given an Account of;—when the Deceased was taken up from the Ground, the Keys dropt out of her Petticoats, or some Part of her Cloaths. Mr. *Chapman* and I went up and searched the Drawers;—We did not find the least Confusion or Disorder above Stairs, for every Thing was safe; we found in the Drawers, a Silver Tankard, some Spoons, Bills, and Effects to the Amount of 120 l. —We ordered the Necessary-House to be searched, and there was a great many large Coals found in it, a Stone Bottle, and some other Things that had been missing, and which the Deceased complained of being robbed off. She often told me that she had been robb'd, but I could not believe any such Thing; for I used to tell her that she would find the Thief near Home. —When the Prisoner was examined, she always said that four Men broke in backwards—her Fingers on the Left-Hand were cut, which she said was done in shutting the Street Door. —The Night this Murder was done, the Prisoner had a clean Cap on, and a bloody Cap was brought the next Day by the Maid who lives at the *Noah's Ark* Alehouse; and the Prisoner owned it was hers;—it was bloody on the Left Side.

[*Then the Prisoner's bloody Cap was produced in Court.*]

Q. How far is the Wash-house from the Deceased's Dwelling House.

*Jefferys*. It joins to the Dwelling House.

Q. Do you apprehend that any Person could break in backwards?

*Jefferys*. There was no Sign of it —There was no Retreat for Villains to get away backwards.

*Edward Johns*. I was employed by Mr. *Jefferys* and Mr. *Chapman* to search the Necessary-house; I took up the Floor, and in searching, I found a great many Coals, some of them as large as a Brick; and I found a new Mop and a Stone Bottle. I could not find the Watch there, tho' I took all the Pains I could, but at last I found it under a Water-Cask in the Yard; and I observed that it was bloody in several Places. The Number is 160.

[*Then the Watch was produced in Court; it was in a wooden Case, in the Nature of a Table-Clock.*]

Mr. *Jefferys*. I know this to be the Watch, for I bought the Case.

Mrs. *Toucher*. This is the same that hung over the Chimney Piece when I was at the Deceased's House in the Evening, before she was murdered.

*Rebecca Sparrow*. The Woman who used to lie with the Deceased, was called into Court to give Evidence on the Part of the Crown, but she being a Quaker refused to be sworn, and therefore could not give her Testimony; for tho' the solemn Affirmation of Quakers, are received as Evidence in Courts of Justice between Party and Party, yet where a Prisoner stands at the Bar, on their Trial for Life and Death, the Evidence against them must, by the Laws of this Kingdom, be sworn on the Holy Evange-



lifts to speak the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth.

*John Fordham.* I live at *Shepherd-and-Dog-Stairs, Rotherbith*, near the House of the Deceased *Mrs. Walker*. I never had any Conversation with the Prisoner relating to this unhappy Affair, only she said that she called out *John! John!* at the Time the four Men were in the House. — I was at home on the Evening of the 23d of *February*, but heard nothing of her calling out, and I believe, if she had called out I should have heard her. — I saw the Prisoner's Fingers were bruised, which she said was done by shutting too the Street Door.

*Robert Inwood.* I believe it was impossible for any Person to break in backwards. — There is two slight Gates backwards, about seven Foot and a half high, and they were lock'd up, and if any Person had got over them, they must have been broke down, for they would not bear a Man — If these four Men, of whom the Prisoner gives an Account, had broke in backwards there must have been some Sign of it; and they had no Way to make a Retreat backwards; for they must have come into a Passage that leads into the Street. — If they had gone backwards, they must have jumped into the Water, or the Mud, and been smothered. — I saw the Deceased *Mrs. Walker* the Night she was murdered lying on the Ground-Floor, with her Throat cut, and when she was lifted up from the Ground, her Keys dropp'd out of her Clothes.

THIS Witness gave the same Account of the Murder (which the Prisoner charged on the four Men) as the other Witnesses had done. — And there were other Witnesses examined, who all agreed in every Particular.

THE Witnesses for the Crown being all examined, the Court asked the Prisoner what she could say in her Defence, for that she stood charged with the Murder of her Aunt.

#### *The Prisoner's Defence.*

ON the 23d of *February*, in the Evening, my Aunt and I was at work in the Kitchen, and she said to me, *Molly*, when you have cleaned your Brasses you shall go and see your Sister. *Mrs. Toucher* came in to see my Aunt, and staid about a Quarter of an Hour. My Aunt bid me light *Mrs. Toucher* home, which I did. When I came back again, I shut the Street Door after me, and we went to Supper. My Aunt said she would let the Cat in at the Back Door; presently after she went backwards, she called out to me, and I asked her if I should bring her the Candle; and she answered me No; I then sat down in a Chair by the Table, and four Men broke in upon her; and a tall Man, in a white Frock, or a white Waistcoat, brought my Aunt out of the Wash-house by the Neck, [*The Prisoner here put both her Hands round her Neck to shew the Court in what Manner the Man had seized her*] and sat her in a Chair by the Fire-Side; then three Men came following, and took hold of me, and asked me if I would die,

or



or hold my Tongue. I said I would not speak; the tall Man stood over me, while the other three Villains murdered my Aunt. When they had murdered my Aunt they went up Stairs; and the tall Man took my Uncle's Watch, and I made my Escape out, and went and alarmed the People, and said they had murdered my Aunt; then I went to the *Noah's Ark* Alehouse; but how I got there or back again, I do not know, and this is all I know about it.

THEN the Prisoner was asked, if she had any Witnesses.—She said she had none.

AFTER the Judge had summed up the Evidence to the Jury in a plain and easy Manner, his Lordship added: But, Gentlemen, I would have you Notice, that in the whole Evidence, there is nothing positively proving the Prisoner to be guilty of the Indictment. The whole depends upon Circumstances; whether they are probable or improbable is left to your Consideration; and if when you have laid all the Parts of its Circumstantial Evidence together, and you shall give Credit to it, then you will find the Prisoner guilty of the Indictment; but if you should give Credit to what the Prisoner has offered in her Defence, that some other Person committed this Murder, you will then acquit her. I leave it entirely with you, and shall not give my Opinion, whether the Prisoner is guilty or not; I would recommend you, to withdraw and maturely consider your Verdict, and it would be necessary for you to take with you the bloody Knife, Apron, and Cap.

*Foreman.* My Lord, as to the Guilt of the Prisoner we are all satisfied;

Whereupon in about five Minutes they found her Guilty, *DEATH.*

THE Judge soon after proceeded to pass Sentence upon the Prisoner, That she should be carried from thence back to the Place from whence she came; and remain there till *Monday Morning*; that then she should be carried to *Kennington*, and hanged on the Gallows there till she was *Dead, Dead, Dead*; on or before the Hour of Twelve at Noon, and that afterwards her Body should be delivered to the Surgeons to be dissected and anatomised, pursuant to a late Act of Parliament made for that Purpose.

It is remarkable, that during the whole Time of her Trial she never changed her Countenance, or seem'd in the least affected before that awful Court of Justice, in which many Persons of Fashion were assembled. When the bloody Knife, Apron, Cap, and Watch, were produced, tho' the whole Court seem'd greatly shock'd, and Tears trickled plentifully from the Eyes of many Ladies, yet the harden'd Prisoner gave not any Signs of the least Contrition.

SHE was then taken from the Bar by the proper Officers, and conveyed to the *Stock-House* Prison amongst the greatest Crowd of Spectators that was ever known at *Kingston* on such an Occasion.

HERE she was kept locked up in a Room by herself, her Diet was only Bread and Water, and no Person was allowed to see her, except the Sheriff's

Chaplain and the Keeper. It was given out on *Sunday* Morning, That she was to go to Church and that a Sermon was to be preached suitable to her melancholy Condition. This Report brought great Numbers of People from the neighbouring Villages to see her; but she did not go to Church, to their great Disappointment.

THE next Morning, being *Monday*

*April* the Second, Mr. *Hammet*, the Keeper of the *New Gaol* in *Southwark*, pursuant to her Sentence, brought her from the *Stock-House* Prison in *Kingston* hand-cuffed in a Post-Chaise, attended by three Officers, to the *Peacock* in *Kennington-Lane*, where the Hangman haltered her. She was directly put into a Cart, and carried to *Kennington-Common*.

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## At the Place of EXECUTION.

BEING come to the fatal Tree, the Executioner immediately tied her up, when her Countenance seemed to change a little; but she presently recovered herself, and said, O LORD! what is there no Person to pray by me?—On which a Gentleman got up into the Cart, and prayed with her near a Quarter of an Hour, to which she seemed very attentive. A Relation of hers then got up into the Cart, and begged of her, for God's Sake, to confess the Murder, if she was Guilty. She said, "Cousin, I am not guilty of it, as I must appear before the Almighty God in a few Minutes; and I go out of the World, as innocent of this Crime, as ever I came into the World when my Mother bore me; I would not trifle at this Time, when I see Death before my Eyes. I lay no Blame on any one that has been the Cause of my coming to this shameful End. I hope God Almighty will forgive both them and me; I die in Peace, and trust in my Saviour and Re-

deemer for Mercy and Forgiveness  
" And good People God bless you,  
" pray for me."

THESE were the last Words which she spoke that could be heard, for then the Executioner asked her if she was ready. She said, "Yes, when you will." He then tied on the same Handkerchief to cover her Eyes, which she wiped her Face with at *Kingston* when upon her Trial: And in a Minute or two the Cart drew away, when she launched into Eternity.

IT was about a Quarter after Ten in the Morning when she was turn'd off; and the Executioner cut her down a little before Eleven. She was carried back in a Cart to the *New Gaol*, and about Three in the Afternoon her Body was delivered to Mr. *Benjamin Cowell*, one of the Surgeons belonging to *St. Thomas's Hospital*, who had an Order from *Daniel Ponton*, Esq; to receive it, that it might be dissected and anatomised, pursuant to Act of Parliament.

